

ABSTRACT

Embodiments of a method and filter apparatus (10) for filtering and/or treating water
5 are shown and described, each embodiment being for multiple-stage processing of water or
other liquid, with storage intermediate between the stages. Preferably, water is passed
through a first zone (28) of a filter housing cavity and conducted through an intermediate port
(16) to storage (24). When water is demanded by a usage device (22), water flows in reverse
10 from storage back into the filter (10), to flow through the second zone (42) for a second stage
of filtering/treatment, and then preferably out an outlet port (18) to the usage device. Water
may also flow from the water source directly through the first and second zones (28, 42) and
to the usage device (22), without intermediate storage. Preferably, both first and second
zones are contained and axially arranged within a single filter housing (12). Preferably,
water flows bi-directionally through a central return tube (26, 26"), or other axial passage
15 (26') through the first zone media that connects to a combined outlet-inlet intermediate port
(16) in or near the housing top wall, so that this tube or axial passage may be used as the
collector for the first-zone effluent and also the distributor for the second zone feed.
Alternatively, a side-wall combined outlet-inlet intermediate port (16') may be used to
conduct the inter-zone liquid to and from storage.